



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.7946 | FAX (517) 373.2678
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/stamas/

For Immediate Release
November 4, 2005

Contact: Chad Wing
(517) 373-7946

Lawmakers announce planning meetings for future transportation funding projects

LANSING – Area residents will have an excellent opportunity to voice their support for construction of an I-75 overpass bridge and highway interchange project in Gaylord at scheduled state highway department meetings in November, announced Sen. Tony Stamas and Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer.

The Michigan Department of Transportation has scheduled 16 hearings, including Gaylord on Nov. 29.

“The department is coming to the area to listen to what residents want in its five-year plan,” said Stamas, R-Midland. “Here is the public’s chance to say directly what is necessary in the region.”

Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire, said: “We included the funding for the Gaylord project in the 2005 budget proposal, but the governor vetoed it even though the federal government had awarded \$12 million for the overpass projects.”

The Gaylord meeting is at 5 p.m., in the Gaylord United Way Building, at the corner of Fifth and Elm streets.

The two lawmakers have been working with a group of local officials to find a solution to the substantial traffic congestion at the M-32/I-75 interchange. An east-west crossover would drastically improve accessibility and spur further economic development in the Gaylord area.

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